

Remarks:

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 22, 2006. Pursuant to this amendment claims 1-12 are pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the title of the invention. Applicant changes the title to "Optical Drive Controller Providing Calibrated Laser Diode Driver."

The Office Action rejects claim 1 as indefinite. Applicant amends the language identified in the rejection to address the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,944,109 to Wang, et al. Applicant submits that the Wang patent is directed to a system for adjusting the power output of a laser diode and does not test the timing characteristics of a channel between a laser diode driver and an optical drive controller. Because the Wang patent is directed to a laser diode power monitoring and control system, it does not adjust the timing of the laser diode driver according to channel delay characteristics. Consequently the claims of the present application distinguish over the Wang patent and are in condition for allowance.

As discussed, for example, in paragraphs 15 and 22-24 of the present application, jitter, skew and other timing errors and variations in the channel between a controller and a laser diode driver can cause write errors and cannot conventionally be detected in optical disk drives. The systems described in the application can address these problems by testing the write strategy or WSR channel between the controller and the laser diode driver and adjusting the laser diode driver's pulse generation according to the delays and variations detected in the channel. This is not done in the system of the Wang patent nor is there any suggestion in that reference to do so.

The present application specifies that a preferred optical drive controller tests the timing characteristics of a WSR channel between the controller and the

laser diode driver and adjusts timing characteristics to correct for detected timing variations. These aspects of the application's system are described, for example, in paragraphs 16-17 and 25-31. Monitoring and adjusting for timing variations is not performed in the Wang patent's system and is not suggested by the Wang patent.

Claim 1 distinguishes over the Wang patent by reciting "the optical drive controller testing timing characteristics of an electrical channel between the optical drive controller and a laser diode driver and ... generating a set of calibration signals ... responsive to the timing characteristics tested by the optical drive controller." The Wang patent's calibration adjusts only the output power of the laser diode and so does not test the timing characteristics of the channel between the controller and laser diode driver and does generate calibration signals in response to the timing characteristics of that channel. Consequently, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-7 distinguish over the Wang patent and the other art of record and are in condition for allowance.

Claim 8 distinguishes over the Wang patent by specifying "a WSR channel coupling the optical drive controller to the laser diode driver." Claim 8 further distinguishes over the Wang patent by reciting "the optical drive controller outputting timing test signals over the WSR channel, the laser diode driver ... responsively generating a monitor signal responsive to timing characteristics of the WSR channel." The Wang patent's system does not test the timing characteristics of any aspect of its system and so nothing within the Wang patent's system would output "timing test signals" to a signal channel. Consequently claim 8 and its dependent claims 9-12 distinguish over the art of record and are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

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If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4600 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

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